

Learning from and sharing best practice in the management of drylands

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Land users worldwide are constantly testing, adapting, and refining new and better ways of managing drylands. All too often, however, the resulting knowledge is not sufficiently being evaluated, documented and shared. Among other things, this has often prevented valuable land management and restoration knowledge from being channelled into evidence-based decision-making processes.

Since more than 20 years, the international WOCAT network documents and promotes SLM through its global platform. In-depth assessments of SLM practices enabled an evaluation of how SLM addresses prevalent dryland threats. The impacts mentioned most were diversified and enhanced production and better management of water and soil degradation, whether through water harvesting, improving soil moisture, or reducing runoff. Among others, favourable local-scale cost-benefit relationships of practices play a crucial role in their adoption. To provide the necessary evidence-based rationale for investing in dryland restoration and to reinforce assessments of impacts, more field research is needed.